# CHURCH CONSTITUTION (Sample)

***Preamble***

We declare and affirm these principles in the light of the Holy Scripture to govern the body in an orderly manner. These principles will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

***Article I - Name***

This body shall be known as the _____ Baptist Church of _____ (city) North Carolina using facilities located at _____ (street address).

***Article II - Objectives***

Our purpose as a local body is as follows:

1 . To worship God as a fellowship of believers, in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the lordship of Jesus Christ.
2. To minister to each other and to all the world.
3. To lead the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ both at home and around the world.
4. To nurture Christian growth through preaching, teaching, and fellowship.

***Article III - Statement of Faith***

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. The church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message as* adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963.

***Article IV - Relationships***

We are governed by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the body, the church, as He shall reveal His leadership to us through the Word of God and the Spirit of God. This church is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Baptist Association, the North Carolina Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

***Article V - Covenant***

We, the members of the _____ Baptist Church, _____, North Carolina, having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, enter into a covenant with each other, as one body in Christ. We, therefore, agree, by the help of the Holy Spirit and with the Bible, the inspired Word of God as our guide, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church; to promote spirituality; to sustain its worship, discipline and doctrine; to observe the church ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as authorized by our local church; to contribute cheerfully and regularly of God's tithes and our offerings to the support of the ministry of our church and to the spread of the gospel to all nations.

We agree to encourage personal and family devotions; to educate our children according to our faith; to seek the salvation of the unbeliever; to be just in our dealings, reliable in our responsibilities, and an example to those around us; to abstain from the sale and use of substances harmful to our bodies, which are the temples of God; to use our influence to combat the abuse of all such harmful substances; and to work untiringly for the advancement of the kingdom of our Savior by witnessing in words and actions.

We agree to walk in Christian harmony and watchfulness, giving and receiving assistance with meekness and affection; to pray for one another; to help each other in sickness and sorrow; to be slow to get angry; to always be eager for reconciliation, seeking it without delay. We further agree that, when we move from this area, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

***Article VI - Amendments***

Changes in this constitution may be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided that copies of each amendment have been presented in writing at the previous regular business meeting, that a written copy of the amendment has been published at least twice in the weekly church newsletter or bulletin prior to being voted on, and that written copies have been made available in the church office to the church membership. Amendments shall be passed by two-thirds vote of all members of the church present and voting.

***Article VII - Adoption***

Section 1 – This constitution shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two thirds of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of same. This vote shall be taken not less than 30 days after formal presentation of the constitution of the church.

Section 2 – This constitution abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any constitution, rules, and bylaws and amendments that preceded it.

Section 3 – A copy of this constitution and bylaws shall at all times be kept by the church clerk and another copy shall be kept in the church office. All amendments and revisions shall, after passage by the vote of the church, be prepared by the church clerk and incorporated in the constitution and bylaws and made available to church members on request.

Responsibilities of all committees will be developed and voted on by the church. These duties will be formed into a booklet and made available to all church members.

***Article IX - Church Council***

A Church Council shall be comprised of all elected ministerial staff, the chairperson of the deacons, the directors of all program organizations as indicated in article VI, and the chairperson of all church committees. The pastor or his designee shall serve as chairperson of the Church Council. The Church Council serves as the administrative body of the church and shall meet during the last week of every month to calendar and coordinate the work of the church.

***Article X - Amendments***

Changes in these bylaws shall be made at any regular business meeting of the church, provided each amendment shall have been presented in writing at the previous regular business conference meeting, that a written copy of the amendment has been published at least twice in the weekly church newsletter or bulletin prior to being voted on, and that written copies of the proposed amendment be furnished to each member present. Amendments to these bylaws shall be ratified by two-thirds vote of all members of the church present and voting.

***Article XI - Adoption***

These bylaws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two thirds of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken shall vote in favor of the same. This vote shall take place not less than 30 days after formal presentation of the bylaws to the church.